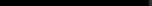


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In my last annual report I ventured to express the opinion "that the present organization of the Navy is not only essentially defective and unwieldy, but is, in a practical operation, working palpable and serious mischief to the efficiency and character of that branch of the public service, and, "that a retired list on reduced pay for the faithful who have become infirm, the discharge of the inefficient who have claimed on the bounty of their government for services rendered; promotion regulated by capacity, merit, and not by mere seniority of commission; and pay to some extent controlled by sea-service, are reforms not only demanded by the condition of the service, but by considerations of justice, but absolutely necessary to the preservation of efficiency and usefulness." Efforts were made, during the last session, to accomplish many of the desired reforms. Substantial action was taken. Subsequent reflection, and experience of nearly twenty years' connection with the Navy, an

kins, Dip.



